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Catherine M. Polizzi
Morrison & Foerster
755 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1018

Ms. Polizzi:

This letter is in response to your communication dated 23 September 1997 requesting the status of international application PCT/US96/20757. Patent and Trademark Office records reveal that the U.S. national stage application number assigned was 08/836,455, filed 09 May 1997.